BENGALURU, SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 76% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 74,005 | Nifty 22,502 | Gold 73,750 | Silver 91,149 | Dollar 83.30 | Euro 90.75 | GBP 105.83

TAXING TIME

BBMP in a bit of a spot as with just ₹626 crore, property tax collection halved this April

PAGE 4

FULLY ON TRACK

K-RIDE takes stock of social, environmental impact of suburban rail project, makes findings public

PAGE 6

BANGALORE TEST DRIVE MIRROR

We took a ride along Airport Road to understand if newly installed AI-powered speed trap cameras are doing the trick. But we found that most were unaware of contraption and some didn't worry about fines

SPEED DEVILS LOOK AI IN THE EYE

110 accidents between Jan and April as speeding is common on stretch

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During a visit to the newly installed AI-powered speed trap cameras on Airport Road, Bangalore Mirror observed speeding cars, traffic jams and people's unwillingness to follow traffic rules. On May 16, around 1 pm, before the first airport toll, this reporter observed motorists speeding without caring about the cameras or the police. Despite the congestion, many cab drivers treated the stretch as a race track.

This stretch on International Airport Road has been notorious for speeding for several years. In response, the traffic police have installed eight AI-powered speed trap cameras to address the issue.

The Devanahalli Traffic Police told BM that the cameras were installed earlier, but have been made functional just two days ago.

"There are cameras installed near Sadahalli toll gate as well. These cameras not only detect the speed of the vehicle from far away, but also detect all types of other violations. Apart from the cameras, there is also police patrolling in the area to make sure that nobody is speeding," said the traffic police.

According to the data by the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

KAUSHIK JN

"Many times passengers going to the airport ask me to drive fast. Also, if I don't complete a certain number of trips in a day, are the authorities going to feed my children?

Cab driver

Door's open, slither right in

Rain, climate change driving snakes out of their habitat and into residential areas

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As Bengaluru experiences rainfall, many citizens are getting uninvited guests at home. Snakes, venturing out of their habitats, are entering homes, prompting complaints from residents. Snake rescuers are responding to these calls, safely relocating the snakes to nearby forests.

Over the past few weeks, several homes in Bengaluru have reported encountering snakes seeking refuge from the rains. These snakes have been found in various places such as bathrooms, cars, garages, kitchens, atop two-wheelers, and even inside shoes. This influx of snakes into residential areas reflects the city's transition from a garden city to an urban jungle, exacerbated by heavy rainfall in recent weeks.

PAGE 5: RAIN PREDICTED

A wildlife rescuer confirmed receiving multiple calls from rain-affected areas and shared experiences of rescuing numerous snakes, including Russel's vipers and cobras, primarily from residential premises.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Dance and storytelling

Dive into the world of Tamil literature and discover the origins of Kummi through a solo dance-storytelling piece 'Kummi, Subbu, and Other Stories' by Janani Murali for children and adults alike. Loosely based on the 'kummi' song written by Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi, this piece travels from Bharathi to other freedom fighters, from Sangam literature to modern-day works such as those by RK Narayan, and some more. **Where: Atta Galatta; When: May 19, 4:30 pm**

02 Quiz time

Test your aviation knowledge and learn more about the ins and outs of the aviation field at 'Quiz Mania@Urban Solace' with quiz master Atul Chandra, a proud Bengalurean and an aerospace and defence journalist of international repute with over 14 years of experience. The event is yet another new experience designed to stimulate your minds in a fun and unique way.
Where: Urban Solace; When: May 19, 7 to 9 pm

03 Ukulele tunes

Embark on a musical journey with "Strum Swiftly," Taylor Swift's music all on the charming and accessible ukulele. It is more than just a workshop; it's a community of Taylor Swift and ukulele enthusiasts coming together to learn, play, and share their passion for music. No matter your skill level, you`ll leave with a deeper understanding of the ukulele, improved playing skills, and the joy of music. **Where: My School of Rock, Koramangala When: Until June 23**

Bowing to public demand, APL cards likely to be issued soon

Food dept scrutinises BPL cards, decides to retain or cancel them accordingly

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Due to the increasing demand for above poverty line (APL) cards, the Department of Food and Civil Supplies (FCS) is preparing to issue new APL cards starting from June. Individuals interested in obtaining these new cards must apply online. However, the online portal has not been accepting fresh applications for the past 1.5 years. There is also a growing demand for ration cards under a new government scheme.

For many Bengalureans, a ration card serves as an identity proof for numerous schemes, even though they may not actively use it to purchase subsidised items from authorised ration shops for years. However, as per the latest buzz, the FCS department is contemplating cancelling ration cards if no purchases have been made in the last six months. A final decision on this matter will be made soon. A senior official from the FCS department stated, "We are currently collating data on all ration card holders who have not used it to make purchases in the last six months. We will scrutinise these cards and decide whether to cancel or retain them." The potential cancellation may affect Antyodaya and below poverty line (BPL) card holders. Presently, Karnataka has 1,27,76,116 BPL and Antyodaya cards, with 3,47,297 card holders not making any purchases in the last six months.

Disapproving cancellation

However, not everyone supports this decision. Ration cards, along with Aadhar cards, are required as identity proofs for various schemes, including Congress guarantee schemes. Suananda Kumar, a ration card holder, expressed her concerns, stating that it is a misconception that they only own a ration card for purchasing rations. A BPL card is necessary to avail health insurance. She wonders why the government wants to take action against such ration card holders, considering it completely unwarranted. Nanda Gopal, a garment worker, added that to buy a ration, they have to take leave from work, and the queues start forming as early as 6 am. Many times, fearing the long queues, he doesn't buy ration. Instead of issuing more ration cards to help people, the food and civil supplies department is not doing the right thing by planning to cancel the existing ones.

Non-purchase of ration and more

However, officials present a different perspective. They state that they want to understand why people are not purchasing rations. There could be various reasons for this, such as misuse of the card, changes in the cardholder's address, or the cardholder may no longer be alive or incapacitated, making the card unusable. On the flip side, the department has also been scrutinising individuals with BPL cards. A previous audit conducted by the department revealed a surprising finding. Among the BPL cardholders, a total of 12,012 individuals were identified who not only possessed BPL cards but also owned luxurious cars. This contradiction raised concerns about potential misuse of the system and prompted the need for further investigation and corrective measures. The response to this development has been varied, with different segments of society expressing their viewpoints. Some have urged authorities to consider specific circumstances, especially for those who own cars for commercial purposes such as running taxis or cabs. In response, an official clarified the department's stance, stating, "We will carefully consider all such scenarios, and only individuals who own a car for personal use will face the possibility of their BPL cards being cancelled."

File photo of a card holder buying ration at subsidised rates

Interestingly, the issue extended beyond car ownership. Instances were uncovered where government employees and individuals with significant agricultural land holdings were also listed as BPL cardholders. This discovery prompted a reevaluation of the verification process, which had temporarily halted. The recent return of the Congress government to power and the introduction of guarantee schemes facilitated renewed scrutiny and verification efforts.

Protests erupt after spate of student suicides

Citizens demand probe after four deaths recorded at PES University

After news of the suicide of yet another student of PES University, Rahul Carasala, aged 21, recently surfaced, Bengaluru citizens, led by social worker Dushyant Dubey and members of the St Broseph Army, organised a peaceful protest at Freedom Park, condemning the university and pressing the urgency for reforms in the Karnataka Education Act, 1983.

The protest saw a positive turnout of citizens, who jointly called for the government to conduct an official investigation into PES University and its activities. The protesters called upon Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, CM Siddaramaiah, and Central Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to investigate PES University and determine the causes and patterns behind the four student suicides. They further implored Karnataka Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar to push for amendments to the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, to criminalise the harassment of students by higher education authorities, akin to ragging.

Dushyant Dubey, addressing the matter, said, "Nine months ago, we conducted the protest to get justice for Aditya Prabhu at this very spot. The slogans raised that day were 'No More Student Deaths', and 'Investigate PES University,' and since then, letters and memoranda have been submitted to many relevant officials. However, no action has been taken against the university till date, and the charge-sheeted professors of PES University in Aditya Prabhu's suicide were not even suspended."

He further added that he feels the same state of helplessness as the victims of suicide due to the alleged inaction of the authorities and holds the government responsible for the environment of distrust towards the education system amongst students and common citizens alike. On May 14, Rahul allegedly took the extreme step, as he was not allowed to write an exam on account of being late and being told that he wouldn't be a part of the college placements as a result. This is the fourth such incident in a year. The protesters will be meeting the Deputy CM, DKS, to submit a memorandum of their demands and to request that he take suitable actions towards investigating PES University.

— BMB

Where to park school buses?

Traffic cops meet schools, citizens to discuss parking issue

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Many citizens have been complaining about school buses being parked in residential areas. In response, the traffic police are holding meetings with schools and residents' welfare associations throughout the south division. According to DCP South Traffic, Shiva Prakash Devaraju, meetings are being conducted to address these concerns.

"We have completed meetings in the jurisdictions of four police stations, and the rest will be addressed soon," Devaraju stated. "If necessary, we will organise additional meetings based on residents' complaints," he added.

The proposed solution is for schools to use volunteers to help manage traffic, particularly parking issues.

"We've already had several meetings about the parking issue, and next week we will have more. Before the schools reopen, we will have the matter sorted out," said the cop.

The Bengaluru traffic police have registered 353,075 cases for wrongful parking in 2024.

"The schools are saying that they don't have enough parking space.

They are not wrong because the entire city is facing the same issue. People who are complaining about school buses being parked in residential areas are the same people who park their two wheelers and cars on the road in front of other people's houses," said a citizen.

While another resident and a parent added, "The streets are already narrow enough and we don't have space. Why are school buses being parked in our area and no action is being taken?"

According to the Bengaluru Traffic Police (South Division), they have been receiving complaints from the entire zone of increasing traffic congestion before over parking of school buses.

However, the problem is not new as the Bengaluru Traffic Police and school administrations have been earlier in a tussle over traffic congestion caused by school buses parked on streets near schools. More than 800 schools at that time received notices from the police.

The police had directed that schools lacking sufficient parking for their buses and parents' vehicles should secure alternative parking spaces. However, school officials had argued that this solution was not practical.

KSRTC bus in cliff-hanger accident: 6 injured

A Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus rammed into a divider on a flyover along the national highway near Nelamangala in northwest Bengaluru, resulting in injuries to six passengers as well as the driver and conductor. The impact caused injuries primarily to those seated at the front of the bus, while the remaining passengers sustained minor injuries. Police and bystanders promptly rescued the passengers and transported the injured to nearby hospitals.

The incident occurred at Madanayakanahalli on Tumakuru Road while the bus was en route from Somwarpete to Bengaluru. As it ascended the flyover ramp, it struck the median and precariously hung from the flyover for a brief period.

The front of the bus suffered significant damage, necessitating the use of a crane to return it to the road. Traffic was temporarily disrupted due to the accident.

Authorities are awaiting medical reports to determine if the driver was intoxicated, and a technical team is examining the bus to identify the cause of the crash. **BMB**

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Just ₹626 cr in bag, BBMP sees property tax lag

Rebate deadline extensions, pause on revised rates said to be reasons for low collection

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Despite the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) being assigned the task of increasing property tax collection, this financial year's tax collection has not gained momentum yet. BBMP has managed to collect Rs 626 crore in property tax during the first month of this financial year, compared to Rs 1,212 crore collected during the corresponding period last year.

For instance, the property tax collected this year from Bommanahalli stands at Rs 68 crore, down from Rs 122 crore last April. In Dasarahalli, the tax collection is at its lowest, with just Rs 17 crore collected compared to Rs 34 crore in April 2023. The East Zone has seen a collection of Rs 124 crore, down from Rs 243 crore. Mahadevapura zone, known for its high tax collection, has only collected Rs 147 crore compared to Rs 300 crore last April. Similarly, RR Nagar has collected Rs 42 crore, down from Rs 69 crore. In South, the tax collection is Rs 111 crore, down from Rs 214 crore in April last year. The West zone's tax collection is Rs 72 crore compared to Rs 140 crore, and the Yelahanka zone has collected Rs 45 crore, down from Rs 90 crore in April 2023.

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "Every year, we offer a five percent rebate for April and May. This year, we have extended the deadline for availing of the rebate until July 31, so there was less tax collection in April. Now, we are seeing an increase as we have started issuing demand notices. We are also sending messages to taxpayers, and defaulters will face consequences. We provided a one-time settlement, tax waivers, and other incentives. If people still fail to pay, they will face strict action. According to our amended Act, we now have the authority to seize and auction both movable and immovable properties. We have full power to take legal action against defaulters."

Meanwhile, officials believe that the property tax will rake in moolah from the next fiscal as BBMP plans to revise the property tax, which was put on hold this year due to Lok Sabha polls. Earlier this year, the state government introduced a new property tax system in BBMP areas. Under this system, taxes were to be levied based on the guidance value rather than the current zonal classifications. According to the proposed regulations, property taxes are expected to increase from 6.7 per cent to 8.2 per cent. Specifically, residential properties will see a 6.7 per cent increase, commercial properties a 6.5 per cent increase, industrial properties a 5.3 per cent increase, star hotels a 6.6 per cent increase, and vacant land an 8.2 per cent increase.

> **This year, we have extended deadline for availing of rebate until July 31, so there was less tax collection in April**
>
> –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP Chief Commissioner

The current Unit Area Value (UAV) Property Tax System, introduced in 2008, encompasses 18 distinct property categories, with the entire city divided into six zones, each with varying tax rates based on the guidance value of these areas. However, BBMP officials say that the 18 property categories overlap, granting officials discretion but also causing confusion among citizens. "Seven complex forms are required for citizens to file self-assessment returns. This has resulted in many incorrectly declaring their categories and zones, facing penalties and recoveries. Additionally, changes in guidance values since 2008 and the last revision in 2016 have led to disparities, where properties with lower guidance values are categorised in high-tax zones and vice versa. Hence, the new property tax system is to simplify, rationalise, and establish a fair system, utilising individual property guidance values rather than a single tax rate based on an average guidance value in an area. However, as of now, there is still no clarity as to when the proposed new scheme will be brought into effect."

Sewage from tertiary drain poses pollution threat

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The state government and local bodies have been spending a lot of money to rejuvenate lakes in and around the city. However, lack of coordination among the government departments has been playing a spoilsport, thus resulting in rejuvenated lakes getting polluted again.

A case in point is overflowing sewage from a tertiary drain that is set to enter Talaghattapura Lake, which was rejuvenated a few years ago. The residents of Talaghattapura and Shankara Layout urge the authorities concerned to take measures to prevent sewage entering the residential areas and also into the water body. "It is quite disturbing to see sewage overflowing from the drain whenever it rains heavily. I am of the opinion that the tertiary drain is choked with debris and silt. A portion of the drain is blocked with concrete. I want the authorities to fix this problem as early as possible to avoid inconvenience to the residents," said Kumaraswamy, a resident of BDA Road, Talaghattapura.

Coming down heavily on the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) authorities for lack of coordination, Shankar Layout Residents' Welfare Association former president Arun Kumar said the BWSSB engineers failed to ensure underground drain connectivity. "The tertiary drain, which is supposed to carry rainwater to the nearest secondary drain, is being used for carrying sewage. The residents of Shankara Layout are suffering a lot due to the overflowing of sewage from the tertiary drain. I do not know when the authorities will solve this problem. I want them to fix this problem without any delay," said Kumar.

Sewage overflowing from a tertiary drain near the lake

Expressing concern over the lack of coordination between the BDA and the BWSSB authorities, VK Srivatsa, secretary, Change Makers of Kanakapura Road, said, "It has come to notice that the BWSSB authorities wanted to use a portion of the park land for the construction of a pump house. I want the BDA authorities to allocate a piece of land at a suitable location for this purpose," he said.

Srivatsa said the BWSSB is yet to complete the construction of the sewage treatment plant (STP) in nearby areas. "The problem with the BWSSB is that it allowed buildings to use the UGD facility much before the completion of the STP's construction," he added. Meanwhile, the BWSSB engineer (maintenance) said that he has already informed the engineer concerned to look into the problem.

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Footpath woes
TC Palya

There are no footpaths in the Kithiganur area, on the TC Palya road extending from Garden City University to Bidarahalli, and in all surrounding areas.

Reckless dump
JC Nagar

Trash is thrown on the road opposite the 3rd cross in Marappa Garden, JC Nagar.

Cover the drain
Doddaballapur Road

The drain in front of the Prestige Montecarlo apartments on Doddaballapur Road, near Anantapur Gate, is open and filled with garbage. Will the authorities cover the drain?

Cloudy with a chance of heavy rain

BBMP gets set as rain likely till May 22

People caught in early morning rain at Old Madras Road, on Friday

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It was an unusual day in May as Bengaluru resembled a hill station with cloudy weather, strong breezes, and heavy rainfall. A rainfall warning is in effect until May 22.

N Puviarasan, scientist at the IMD, stated, "Bengaluru will have a generally cloudy sky with moderate rain and thunderstorms, with heavy rainfall likely at times in some areas. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 29°C and 22°C, respectively. The current change in weather is due to the cyclonic circulation over south Tamil Nadu, which now lies over south interior Tamil Nadu and its neighborhood, extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level. Additionally, a trough from south Chhattisgarh to the Comorin area now runs from south Chhattisgarh to south interior Karnataka across Telangana and Rayalaseema at 3.1 km above mean sea level. Furthermore, a north-south trough runs from Marathwada to the cyclonic circulation over Tamil Nadu across Karnataka at 0.9 km above mean sea level. The cyclonic circulation over Rayalaseema and adjoining north Tamil Nadu, extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level, has become less marked."

BBMP to pull up socks

The rainfall prediction means warning bells for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to pull up socks. Reacting to this, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath stated, "We have received prediction for rainfall till May 20. So far, the city has received 40 mm to 60 mm of rainfall. We are preparing for heavy rains and have cleaned the storm water drains. However, plastic and solid waste are blocking side drains at gratings. Between May 15 and May 31, we will be removing all plastic and other waste. We are also warning people against dumping. Zonal control rooms have been set up, and we are coordinating with BBMP and BWSSB."

> **We have cleaned the storm water drains. But plastic and solid waste are blocking side drains at gratings. Between May 15 and May 31, we will be removing all plastic and other waste** –Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP chief

Progress of SW Monsoon?

The IMD has predicted that the Southwest Monsoon may reach the Kerala coast by May 31 and cover the Bengaluru region by June 5. However, experts are debating how the monsoon will progress, given last year's deficit. A report by Skymet indicates that La Niña is developing later than expected and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is likely to be weaker than previously forecasted. The report states, "Global warming and climate change appear to be altering the characteristics of El Niño and La Niña. Due to ocean warming, a 'cool' La Niña year is now hotter than an El Niño year from 25-30 years ago. The origin of El Niño and La Niña is not well understood, and rising ocean temperatures have added complexity to these events. Predicting the ENSO cycle, its onset, intensity, and duration, is becoming increasingly difficult. The Pacific Ocean, being the largest and deepest body of water, generates chaotic climate patterns across the globe. The degree of warming and cooling in the Pacific Ocean is more pronounced due to El Niño and La Niña. Occasionally, the Indian Ocean also exhibits similar variability during strongly positive IOD events."

A Skymet report states that El Niño, the warm phase of the Pacific Ocean, is now winding down and is expected to transition to its counter phase, La Niña.

Game addiction turns fatal

A teenager, who killed his minor brother for the latter's game addiction, was arrested in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The accused was identified as Shivakumar, a resident of Neriga village near Anekal town on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Shivakumar confessed to the Sarjapura police that he hammered 15-year-old brother Pranesh to death as he was upset over the latter taking his mobile and playing games all day.

According to the police, Pranesh, a seventh-grade student, on Wednesday went out to attend nature's call and was later found dead.

After the parents started searching for their son, Shivakumar told them that someone had murdered Pranesh and he had seen the body. Acting on a complaint, Sarjapura police started an investigation into the case and inquired Shivakumar during which he changed his statements.

Suspecting his involvement, the police took him into custody. After being questioned, he confessed to the crime. Shivakumar had assaulted his brother Pranesh with a hammer on his head and abdomen. The police collected CCTV footage showing Shivakumar taking the hammer with him. –IANS

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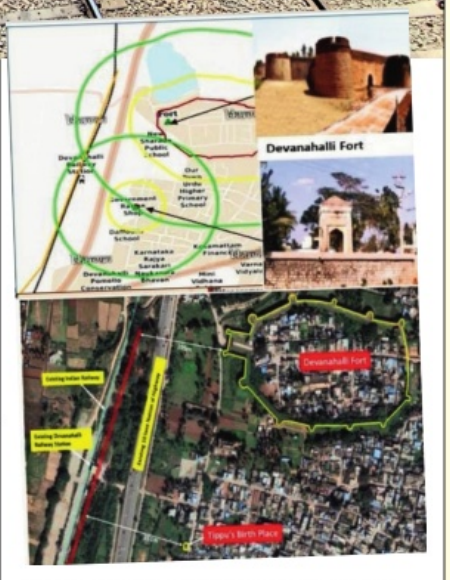
THE SUNDAY READ

A rail runs through it



K-RIDE takes stock of Suburban Rail impact

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

K-RIDE's Bengaluru suburban rail will pass near two monuments protected by the Archaelogical Survey of India (ASI) -- Tipu Sultan's birthplace and fort in Devanahalli.

This was revealed in the Environment Impact Assessment study published in March 2024. The Corridor 1 alignment falls within the regulated zone (300 m from the proposed alignment to the protected monument boundary) of the two monuments. The railway alignment of the 47.380-km long corridor is situated at an aerial distance of 228m and 271m from the boundary of the protected monuments.

According to the survey, none of the other corridors has any archaeologically significant monuments.

Protected property

As per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and its Amendment, 2010, the area within the radii of 100m and 300m from the 'protected property' are designated as a 'protected area' and 'controlled area' respectively. No development activity (including building, mining, excavating, blasting) is permitted in the 'protected area'. Activities likely to damage the protected property are not permitted in the "controlled area" without prior permission of the National Monument Authority, New Delhi before commencement of any work. The normal expected period for getting permission is four months from the date of submission of the application.

K-Ride officials have applied to obtain clearance from ASI for the monuments near Devanahalli Station. A joint site visit has been completed and obtaining clearance is in progress. A total of 10 public consultations were carried out for all the monuments.

Before construction, a prior survey will be conducted to identify all the historical structures near the construction site that may be impacted. However, a ten-lane national highway (NH 48) already exists between the proposed C1 and the monument. On the right-hand side of the proposed BSRP corridor, there is also a railway line.

Other structures

K-RIDE has also found 132 cultural/religious structures and eight burial grounds present along the suburban rail project corridors. These include temples, shrines, tree shrines, churches, mosques, etc., Out of these, 127 cultural religious structures, 28 structures are in Corridor-1, 30 structures in Corridor-2, 57 structures in Corridor- 3 and 12 structures in Corridor-4. None of these structures are notified as cultural heritage by the urban local body. As per the social impact assessment, 21 religious structures (Corridor 1 – one structure, Corridor 2 – 14, Corridor 3 – four structures and Corridor 4 – two structures) are directly affected by the project.

Case of Mathikere slum

In a bid to prevent the displacement of the MR Jayaram Colony in Mathikere and decongest the stretch, K-RIDE has proposed a 1.25-km long double-decker flyover at Mohan Kumar Road.

The elevated section corridor 2 of suburban rail from Baiyyappanahalli Terminal to Chikkabanavara was expected to pass through the fringes of the MR Jayaram Colony.

According to the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) conducted by K-RIDE, the Mathikere Slum settlement was identified for around 3.75% length of the total length of the corridor. According to the study, the slum has 484 structures with nearly 650 people residing in them and the revised alignment will impact 32 properties, 12 private buildings, 13 encroached buildings and 7 empty plots.

The double-decker flyover also comes in the light of BBMP's complaints about congestion along the stretch. According to sources, BBMP had requested K-RIDE to construct a signal-free corridor to decongest Mohan Kumar Road.

As per the plans, a 1.25 km double-decker flyover will be built from Lottegolahalli station to Chowdeshwari bus stand. The first level flyover carrying the road traffic will have a vertical clearance of 5.5 m from the ground and the next layer of the flyover will be 5.5m above the first flyover. The second flyover situated 11m from the ground will elevated section as well as a station.

With the change in design, there won't be a requirement for the demolition of the colony but there might be temporary relocation during the construction period.

> **Mathikere slum has 484 structures with nearly 650 people residing and the revised alignment will impact 32 properties, 12 private buildings and 7 empty plots**
> –From the social impact assessment

Who will be affected

Close to 650 structures will be affected by complete or partial demolition for the construction of the Bangalore Suburban Rail Project (BSRP). The numbers have been revealed in the 'Social Impact Assessment and Resettlement Policy Framework for Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project' report published by Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE).

Of these, 332 are residential, 77 are commercial, 48 are residential cum commercial buildings and 27 are Common Property Resources (CPRs), while the status of the remaining 165 has not been ascertained due to non-cooperation.

Out of these, 282 structures are fully affected and 202 are partially affected. Data also shows that a total of 85 structures are affected in Corridor-1, 289 structures in Corridor-2, 135 structures in Corridor-3 and 140 structures in Corridor 4. In all the corridors, the majority of affected structures are residential, amounting to 51.16%.

The report noted that a key reason for non-cooperation by certain persons was the non-disclosure of Compensation and Resettlement and Rehabilitation Entitlements related information, as it was not ready and approved by then. "The people demanded to disclose the entitlement matrix prior to the census and socio-economic survey. They demanded that the resettlement site should be close to the existing location, as their livelihoods and children's schools, etc. are nearby," the report said.

Further, the report noted that incase of partially affected buildings, a stability assessment would be done by a qualified engineer during the valuation of the structure in consultation with the project affected family, to assess if the remaining part of the building is safe after repairs and renovations. "As of now, no preventive demolition due to potential structural damage caused by vibration is expected," the report said.

Regarding vulnerability of the households surveyed, the report notes that there are 217 project affected households (PAHs) belonging to the vulnerable category out of 845 (excluding the 165 unsurveyed structures). Out of these, 59 PAHs are women headed households, 68 PAHs are below the poverty line and 21 PAHs have persons with disabilities and elderly. Apart from this, 54 and 15 PAHs belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

The SIA study also revealed there is no loss of access to forest resources or to agricultural areas. The Depot 1 at Akkupete requires 18.62 hectares of forest land. "This area does not offer any ecosystem services to nearby communities. This area was used for compensatory afforestation, dominated by Eucalyptus fibrosa and Acacia mangium tree species," the report said.

—Rachana Ramesh

That's what we call a Royal Challenge

Challenging 218 puts B'luru team in good spot as rain threat loomed over match

Fans thronged the stadium to catch a glimpse of their favourites clashing at the match on Saturday

Royal Challengers Bengaluru posted a challenging 218 for five against defending champions Chennai Super Kings in a must-win Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Sent into bat, skipper Faf du Plessis (54) and Virat Kohli (47) shared 78 runs for the opening stand in 9.4 overs after the match was interrupted by showers for sometime at the end of the third over.

Coming onto bat at No.3 position, Rajat Patidar made 41 off 23 balls and stitched 71 runs with Cameron Green (38 not out off 17) for the second wicket to keep up the tempo.

Towards the end, Dinesh Karthik (14 off 6) and Glenn Maxwell (16 off 5) played short little cameos to lift RCB.

For CSK, Shardul Thakur picked up two wickets giving away 61 runs.

Rain scare

Earlier, RCB raced to 31 for no loss in three overs before rain stopped play.

RCB, currently on a five-match winning streak, need to beat defending champions CSK by at least 18 runs to get into the IPL 2024 playoffs. Leading run-getter Virat Kohli began in stunning fashion by placing a Shardul Thakur square drive for four, before skipper Faf du Plessis drove off the all-rounder for four more and thumped a six over the bowler's head.

Kohli used his supple wrists to flick Tushar Deshpande for six, before pulling him for another maximum in the third over. During his unbeaten 19 off nine balls, Kohli also completed 3000 runs at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Just as Maheesh Theekshana was to bowl the fourth over, heavy showers started at the venue and forced players as well as on-field umpires to get off the field, with covers quickly covering the field of play.

All eyes on match

The members of the Women's Premier League (WPL) winning Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) team on Saturday came to M Chinnaswamy Stadium to support the men's team in their high-octane match.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals (RR) batter Riyan Parag has his "priorities" sorted ahead of the mega IPL clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK), which will decide the final team to qualify for the playoffs.

Taking to X, Riyan posted a chat with his support coach and head of coaching (RR Academy) Siddharth Lahiri, saying that he is skipping the match practice in favour of watching both the teams play. **–Agencies**

'No objection to action against Prajwal'

In his first statement on the sex assault scandal involving his grandson Prajwal Revanna, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda stated on Saturday that there was no objection to initiating action against the fugitive JD(S) MP who is the prime accused in the case.

The release of the video clips allegedly showing the Hassan sitting MP Prajwal Revanna sexually abusing women has taken the political circles and civil society by storm in Karnataka.

Speaking to the media after visiting the Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple in JP Nagar, Bengaluru, and offering special prayers on his birthday, Deve Gowda said, "The people of the state know how the case against JD(S) MLA, HD Revanna, my son, is being dealt with. In one case, three bails have been granted. The judgment is reserved for Monday on another bail petition. I don't want to analyse how the developments happened." When asked whether there was an attempt to corner the Deve Gowda family, he replied, "It is true. As the arrested BJP leader G Devaraja Gowda claimed, there are many people involved.

"I don't want to take their names. Action has to be taken against all of them. The women who are in danger must be protected and compensated." "I will speak to the media after June 4 regarding the matter. Until then, I won't speak," he underlined. **–IANS**

BM Shoppers' Avenue

Advertorial Promotional Feature

5 ways to be fashionable while also sustainable

In a world increasingly focused on sustainability, it's time to transform your wardrobe and make conscious fashion choices. By integrating sustainable fashion into your wardrobe, you can make a stylish statement while supporting ethical practices within the industry. Gunjan Jindal Poddar, founder, Amala Earth, suggests five easy steps to infuse sustainability into your wardrobe.

Timeless Appeal

Building a wardrobe with timeless appeal forms the foundation of sustainable fashion. Opt for classic designs made from natural materials that withstand the test of time. By investing in versatile garments that transcend trends, you reduce the need for frequent purchases and cultivate a sustainable and enduring personal style.

Responsibly Sourced

The fabrics we wear have a significant impact on the environment. When adding new items to your collection, opt for fabrics that have

minimal environmental footprint. Look for organic cotton, hemp, linen clothing, or bamboo, which are grown without harmful chemicals and require less water than conventional options. These materials are not only sustainable but also provide comfort and durability.

Ethical Fashion Brands

Align your fashion choices with your values by supporting ethical and transparent brands. Look for certifications like Fair Trade, GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), or B Corp, which validate brands' commitment to social and environmental responsibility. By choosing to support ethical brands, you become a catalyst for positive change within the fashion industry. These brands often prioritise using sustainable materials, reducing waste in their production processes, and providing fair wages and safe working conditions for their employees.

Opt For Versatile Pieces

Maximise the potential of your wardrobe by selecting versatile and multi-functional pieces that offer diverse styling options. Invest in sustainable clothing that can be easily mixed and matched to create multiple outfits, allowing you to maximise your fashion choices.

Mindful Wardrobe

Practice mindful wardrobe management by regularly assessing your clothing collection and embracing the principles of reuse, repurpose, and recycle. Get creative with your existing garments by experimenting with different styling techniques, alterations, or accessories to breathe new life into them.

– Femina

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

THAT IS ONE CLASS MONITOR

Spotted this giant monitor lizard on the way to Mysuru. It was moving around near a mud house, and was in no mood to rush

The picture was clicked by reader **Rishi Upmanyu**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

'Once bustling street, now turned into construction site'

Slow pace of whitetopping irks businessmen in BVK Iyengar Road

Sridhar Vivan
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@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The slow pace of whitetopping works on BVK Iyengar Road, a key business centre in the city, has been troubling local businessmen. Shopkeepers allege that since the work began 20 days ago, their business has declined by 20–25 per cent. The road, a major thoroughfare connecting Chickpet to other areas, has been dug up, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and vehicle users. Shopkeepers are concerned that delays in completing the work may further impact their business. Although authorities announced that the project would be completed in three months, shopkeepers fear it may take longer due to the monsoon season.

Suraj Shet, a businessman, stated, "The road was previously in good condition, but it has been dug up for the white-topping work. To make matters worse, the authorities have not provided any information about the progress or the expected completion date, leaving us shopkeepers in the dark. We are now worried about losing customers due to the ongoing work and fear the situation may worsen if it is not completed soon. The whitetopping work was supposed to start before the Lok Sabha elections but was delayed, and now we are paying the price. The authorities need to take immediate action to complete the work as soon as possible and minimise the inconvenience caused to the shopkeepers and the public."

Rajesh Patel, a shopkeeper, said the delay in completing the work has significantly disrupted their daily operations and has made it challenging to sustain the business. "The impact of the ongoing white-topping work has been devastating for businesses like mine. Our once bustling street has now turned into a construction site, deterring customers and affecting sales. The lack of communication from authorities regarding the progress and completion date has left us feeling helpless. We were not adequately informed about the extent of disruption this project would cause. We urge the concerned authorities to prioritise the completion of this project and provide regular updates to alleviate the uncertainties we face."

Deepa Singh, another shopkeeper, added, "The constant noise, dust, and restricted access have driven away our regular customers. We understand the importance of infrastructure development, but the execution of this project has been poorly managed. Our concerns about the impact on our business were not taken seriously, and now we are facing significant losses. We appeal to the authorities to expedite the completion of the work and provide clear communication to mitigate the adverse effects on our livelihoods." Reacting to this, BBMP officials said that they would expedite the project.

BVK Iyengar Road is a key business centre in the city and the ongoing work has disrupted its rhythm

DID YOU KNOW?

Built in the 17th century, Kadu Malleshwara Temple in Malleshwaram is believed to have been originally located within a dense forest, hence the name "Kadu," which means forest in Kannada. The temple's history dates back several centuries, reflecting Bangalore's deep-rooted religious and cultural heritage. It serves as a significant pilgrimage site and a symbol of devotion for locals and visitors alike. The architecture showcases intricate designs and craftsmanship typical of ancient South Indian temples, providing insight into the region's architectural evolution over the centuries. Beyond its religious importance, the temple serves as a cultural hub, hosting festivals, religious processions, and cultural events that bring the community together.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

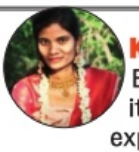
where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which are badly maintained lakes of Benglauru?

Manjunatha, BM Reader
Bellandur Lake has faced severe environmental issues due to pollution and untreated wastewater discharge. Large amounts of untreated sewage from residential and industrial areas have been released into the lake.

Bharath, BM Reader
The discharge of untreated wastewater into Varthur Lake reduces water quality and harms its ecosystem. It is also impacted by the discharge of industrial effluents. We can't sit for 10 minutes near Agara Lake because of the smell.

Mahesh, BM Reader
Subramanyapura Lake is badly maintained. With apartment wastewater let into it, it gives a bad smell to the surroundings. Despite two years of cleaning, Dore Kere Lake is still dirty. Contaminated water poses health risks too.



Kavya, BM Reader
Bellandur Lake is notorious for its high levels of pollution. It often experiences the formation of toxic foam. The lake has been a target for illegal dumping of solid waste, further exacerbating environmental degradation.

Hanumantha Raju, BM Reader
Improper waste disposal practices, including the dumping of solid waste, contribute to the degradation of the Devarakere (Vasanthapura) Lake's ecosystem and aesthetics. Begur Lake is facing environmental issues.

Kashi M, BM Reader
Industrial discharge has further deteriorated the water quality at Bellandur Lake. Unplanned urbanisation and encroachment of the lake's buffer zones have reduced its capacity to absorb pollutants, maintain a balanced ecosystem.

SPEAK TO US

Do you think parks are well maintained in Bengaluru, and if not, why?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Proper intake of calcium and vitamin D in pregnancy may be key for good bone health in women during and after birth

Walnuts are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids and offer other heart-healthy fats, protein, fiber, and vitamins

BangaloreMirror 9
Sunday, May 19, 2024
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All you need to know about...

Life expectancy

Rise expected
Despite geopolitical, metabolic, and environmental threats, a new study on Friday showed that global life expectancy is expected to increase by 4.9 years in men and 4.2 years in women by 2050.

More years in poor health
However, people are likely to spend more years in poor health, revealed the study based on the latest findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2021, published today in The Lancet journal.

NCD burden
Researchers attributed this to an increased shift from a range of communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases (CMNNs) to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) -- like cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes.

Disparity
Global life expectancy is predicted to increase to 78.1 years of age in 2050 (a 4.5-year increase). Global healthy life expectancy (HALE) - the average number of years a person can expect to live in good health -- will increase to 67.4 years in 2050 (a 2.6-year increase).
"In addition to an increase in life expectancy overall, we have found that the disparity in life expectancy across geographies will lessen," said Chris Murray, Chair of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington and Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

Intervention
Murray added that the biggest opportunity to speed up reductions in the global disease burden is through policy interventions aimed at preventing and mitigating behavioural and metabolic risk factors.
"There is immense opportunity ahead for us to influence the future of global health by getting ahead of these rising metabolic and dietary risk factors," Murray said. —IANS

TOSS IT UP

Celebrate Salad Month with a few delectable portions of nutrition on your plate

SWEET CORN KOSAMBARI

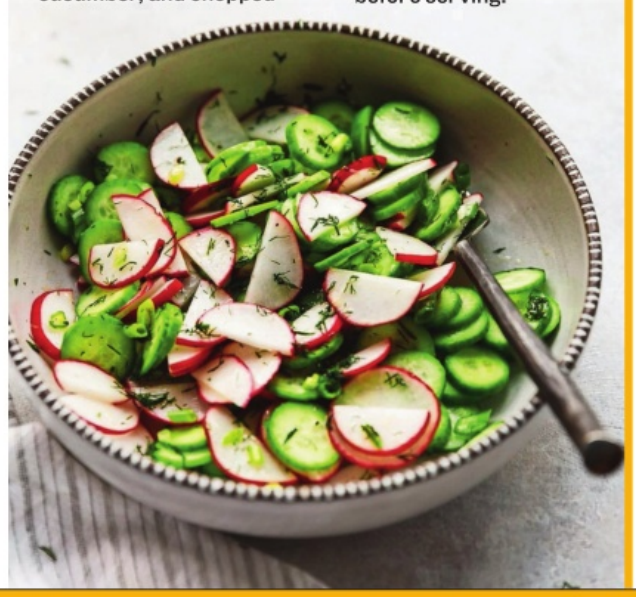
INGREDIENTS
- Sweet corn - 1 and 1/2 cups
- Pomegranate seeds - 1/4 cup
- Green chillies - 2, chopped
- Grated coconut - 1/2 cup
- Juice of 1/2 a lemon
- Salt - to taste
- Water - for boiling
- A pinch of salt and turmeric
- Coconut oil - 1 tsp
- Mustard seeds - 1/2 tsp
- A few curry leaves

METHOD
- Begin by boiling the sweet corn in a saucepan with a dash of salt and turmeric to maintain its colour, using enough water to cover, for approximately 3-4 minutes or until they turn tender.
- Once cooked, rinse the corn to remove any excess turmeric flavour, then drain and set aside.
- In a mixing bowl, combine the boiled sweet corn, pomegranate seeds, chopped green chillies, grated coconut, and salt. Mix thoroughly.
- In a separate tadka pan, heat coconut oil over medium heat. Add mustard seeds and allow them to sizzle. Follow by adding curry leaves and sautéing briefly before turning off the heat.
- Pour the prepared tempering over the salad mixture and stir until evenly distributed.
- Squeeze the juice of half a lemon over the salad and give it a final thorough mix.
- Your sweet corn kosambari is now ready to be served!

RADISH AND CUCUMBER SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- Radish – 1, thinly sliced
- Cucumber – 1, thinly sliced
- Mint – Handful chopped
- Green chilli – 1-2, finely chopped
- Salt – to taste
- Pasta dressing – 3/4 cup

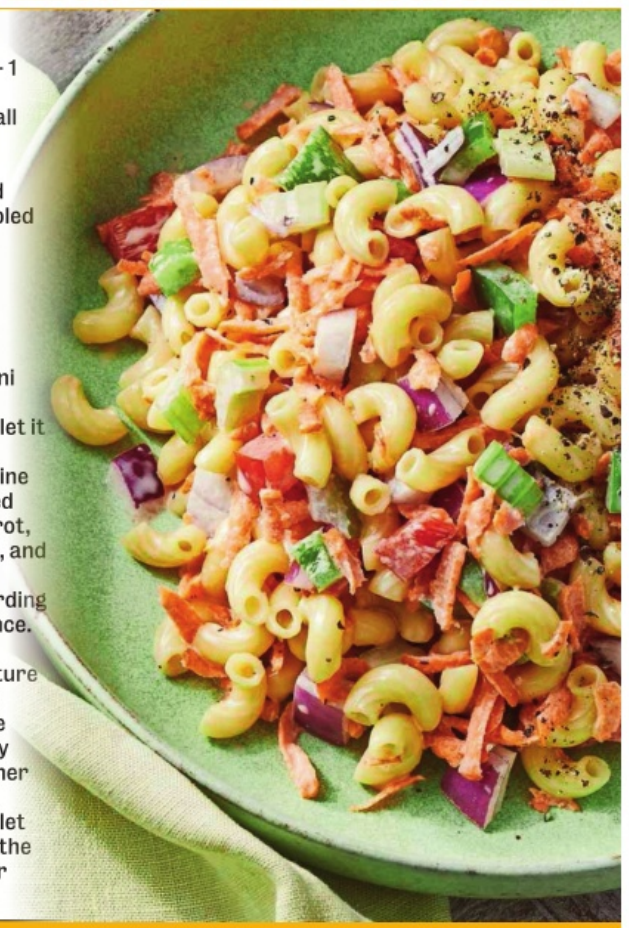
METHOD
- In a mixing bowl, combine the thinly sliced radish, cucumber, and chopped mint leaves.
- Season it with salt over the mixture and mix thoroughly.
- Pour in 3/4 cup of pasta dressing into the salad. Gently toss the salad until all the ingredients are evenly coated with the dressing. To maintain the freshness, add the pasta dressing right before serving.



VEGETABLE ELBOW MACARONI PASTA SALAD

INGREDIENTS
- Elbow macaroni pasta - 1 cup
- Tomato - 2, cut into small cubes
- Carrot - 1, grated
- Green chilli - 2, chopped
- Paneer - 1/2 cup, crumbled
- Salt - to taste
- Pasta dressing - as required
- Coconut oil - 1 tsp

METHOD
- Boil the elbow macaroni pasta until cooked thoroughly. Drain and let it cool.
- In a mixing bowl, combine the cooked pasta, diced tomatoes, grated carrot, chopped green chillies, and crumbled paneer.
- Season with salt according to your taste preference.
- Drizzle pasta salad dressing over the mixture and add a teaspoon of coconut oil for a subtle boost of flavour. Gently toss everything together until well combined.
- Serve immediately, or let it set for a while to let the flavours meld together before serving.



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Police or camera not yet able to kill speed thrill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

traffic police, the number of accidents on the Airport Road rose to 322 in 2023, up from 278 in 2022. Additionally, 110 accidents were recorded on this road between January and April in 2024.

However, despite the increasing number of accidents, people continue to drive rashly and speed on the stretch.

"Technically, it will just be a stack of fines on several vehicles, and a few motorists would care, rest won't. AI cameras should be integrated with Fast Tag for instant fine deductions. Alternatively, an interceptor could catch violators and make them pay the fine. There are outstation vehicles plying on Airport Road—how will AI help? Indians need a pay-and-use system like Fast Tag, a credit system, where a scooter's fine might exceed its value. People aren't even aware that cameras are on and are catching violations. Just a bare minimum may actually be aware. If fine deductions happen instantly within toll booth limits, awareness will spread quickly," said a frequent commuter in that area.

More importantly, the cab drivers that BM spoke with mentioned that they are daily wage workers who try to finish trips quickly so they can take on more rides. They were frustrated about the addition of new cameras, which they felt were unnecessary.

"I didn't know any camera was installed here and nobody was informed about it. Also, I have been driving in the same city for years and I drive safely. So, if the passenger is going to the airport, many times they ask me to drive fast. Also, if I don't complete a certain number of trips in a day, are the authorities going to feed my children?" said a cab driver.

Many commuters on the road also added that the condition of the stretch is better on weekdays, but on weekends one can spot super bikes and sports cars heading to Chikkaballapur.

Motorists opined that the cameras are only as effective as the implementation. If the violators are booked quickly and warned, they might not repeat the offence.

"It is also important to raise awareness - both about the cameras as well as the hazards of speeding. This is part of the negligent attitude towards traffic rules, especially speed limits. As a two-wheeler rider, I tend to be more conscious of my speed when I see the police interceptor vehicle. Maybe it is the presence of police personnel that can bring about some fear, at least in the beginning," said Shubham K, a commuter.

Garden city does not have space for its snakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The unusual timing of snakes entering homes during the season, when reptiles typically hibernate, can be attributed to environmental and climate changes. The cooling temperatures are insufficient for hibernation yet not warm enough for snakes to digest food properly, leading them to seek warm spaces indoors. Additionally, heavy rains have caused water-logging in snake burrows and lakes, forcing even aquatic snakes to enter homes through drains.

Snake rescuers stress on the importance of contacting government departments for snake rescues rather than private pest control companies, highlighting legal protections for snakes. Unqualified individuals using illegal methods for snake extraction can harm these animals. The need for coexistence with snakes was underscored, as they play a vital role in controlling rodent populations and preventing the spread of diseases.

Don't try this at home

Meanwhile, videos on snake handling have gone viral, leading to inexperienced individuals attempting dangerous maneuvers. With increased rainfall, snake rescuers are receiving more calls, particularly for rat snakes and cobras. Changes in city infrastructure, like concretised drains, have displaced snakes onto streets, presenting new challenges.

"Out of the 26 species of snakes found in Bengaluru, the three most commonly encountered ones are cobras, rat snakes, and checkered keelbacks. These snakes are categorised based on their habitat as terrestrial, arboreal, and aquatic. It's important to recognise that as long as humans inhabit an area, there will be human waste, which attracts rodents and subsequently snakes. While these three species have adapted well to Bengaluru's changing environment, the Russell's viper is not frequently found in the core city due to habitat loss, as they prefer open land and rocky terrain. Snake rescuers have been actively rescuing snakes from various locations such as TV stands, shoes, kitchens, and air conditioners," said a snake rescuer.

Snake catchers offer valuable tips, stressing on the need to maintain cleanliness in the surroundings. If a snake is spotted inside the compound wall, it's crucial to immediately seek professional assistance. Common snake species in Bengaluru include cobras, rat snakes, checkered keelbacks (Fowlea piscator), and Russell's vipers (Daboia russelii).

In case you spot a snake, please call the following number. BBMP helpline number : 08022221188

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personal

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I Madhura murugan R/a No 102,1st floor,pioneer classic apartment,KR Garden Mn road,Murugeshpalya,bangalore -560017 have chaned my name to Madhura srinivasan vide affidavit dated18-05-24 sworn before Notary N mahesha Bangalore

I, Tanvi Mudagal R/a No 243/B near Rudranjaneya Panchamukhi Temple. Varnekar layout, Hatalgeri Road, Gadag-582101 have changed my name to Tanvi F Chapparamani vide affidavit dated 16.05.2024 sworn before Notary N Mahesha Bangalore

I, MOHAMED HANEEF S/o Abdul Jabbar R/at Beside Muneer Complex, Makka Masjid Road, Chikkamagalur-577101 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD HANEEF vide affidavit dated: 17/5/2024 Before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I MUBEEN BANU W/o Masood Basha R/o No:- 10 1st Main Road Shamanna Garden New Guddadahalli Bangalore-560026 have changed my name to NAJMUNNISA for all purposes

I MUBEEN BANU W/o Masood Basha R/o No:- 10 1st Main Road Shamanna Garden New Guddadahalli Bangalore-560026 have changed my name to NAJMUNNISA for all purposes

I, S. DHANALAKSHMI, Residing at No 82, 2nd Cross, 4th Block, Thyagarajnagar, Bengalure-560028, Have changed My name to DHANALAKSHMI SEETHARAM vide affidavit dated 17/05/2024 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bengaluru

I, Mahalinga Rajaram s/o Rajaram R/o No 3 Kaithota Main Rd opp Rudrappa Layout Immadihalli Whitefield Post B'luru-560066 have changed my name to Mahalingam Rajaram for all Purposes.

I, Ashoka S.N S/O, K.Nanjappa R/o No.16, Srinivasa Nagar, 13th Main Road, Shrigandhakaval, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore - 560 091 have changed my name to Ashok S.N.

MISSING

MISSING

Satyanarayana Age 60, Missing from Banashankari, Bangalore, Mentally retarded. Suitable reward is considered 10000. *Wearing Purple Shirt and Grey Jeans*

Contact: 9986450482

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Manthan team

Veteran actors Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Prateik Babbar, Dr Verghese Kurien's daughter Nirmala Kurien, and Amul MD Jayen Mehta graced the red carpet during the screening of 'Manthan' at Cannes Film Festival 2024.

Amul India took to official handle of Instagram to share the glimpses of the mega event.

The caption reads, "Manthan" team of Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Prateik Babbar, Ms Nirmala Kurien, @filmheritagefoundation team, & Shri Jayen_Mehta, MD, Amul, representing 3.6 million farmer producers of the film at @festivaldecannes#ManthanAtCannes"

Fashion goals

Actor Kiara Advani is serving major fashion goals at Cannes. The 'Kabir Singh' star, who recently checked into the French Riviera to represent India at Women in Cinema Gala dinner, dropped a stylish post on her social media on Friday. In a video, she could be seen exuding diva vibes in an ivory crepe back satin dress featuring a thigh-high slit. The outfit was from the shelves of designer Prabal Gurung. She elevated her simple yet classy ensemble with large matching earrings and heels. The video started with Kiara getting out of a car. She then walked, posed and smiled on a deck.

AWESOME STYLE

We look at some jaw-dropping red carpet appearances

Second look

In her second appearance at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan once again opted for a gown by designer duo Falguni Shane Peacock. Aishwarya wore a shimmery blue and silver gown as she walked the red carpet on Friday for the screening of acclaimed filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos' latest feature "Kinds of Kindness", starring two-time Oscar winner Emma Stone. The outfit boasted a sweeping trail and bold, dramatic shoulders, featuring metallic fringe. The actor had a cast on her right hand that she has been wearing for an unspecified injury.

Purple haze

Actor Sobhita Dhulipala has made her debut at the ongoing 77th Cannes Film Festival and several pictures of the actress have surfaced on social media platforms. For the red carpet, Sobhita donned a shimmery purple outfit paired with heels and left her hair untied. The outfit showcased a shimmery fabric adorned with intricate floral embellishments. Its elegance was accentuated by a plunging neckline and cut-outs at the waist, featuring unique ring detailing at the front. The glamorous attire worn by the actress is priced at Rs 1,80,000.

She sees red

Sonakshi Sinha, who recently walked at the grand finale of the Bombay Times Fashion Week, wore a beautiful black lehenga on the ramp. The actress even shared pictures of the bridal outfit on Instagram and wrote, "Black bride on the runway (sic)." When asked if that's the kind of ensemble she'd like to pick for her wedding, she said, "It (the black lehenga) is a very beautiful piece and surely fashionable, too, but, whenever I get married, I would like to wear a classic red lehenga."

Before she began her showbiz journey, Sonakshi had studied fashion design.

Talking about her love for fashion, she said, "Fashion is such a big part of my career and life. Whether it is for attending events or selecting the clothes I wear in films, fashion is always a part of what I do. So, I have not left the fashion designer in me behind."

The Dahaad actress further added, "Whenever I get to be a part of fashion shows, it takes me back to my old days. It's like going back to riding a bicycle." **—ETimes**

Emma's muse

Emma Stone has won an Oscar working with director Yorgos Lanthimos, but the self-described feminist star on Saturday rejected the suggestion that she is the Greek auteur's "muse".

"He's my muse," Stone joked, during a press conference at the Cannes Film Festival for "Kinds of Kindness."

The movie is Stone's third feature film collaboration with the Greek director, after "The Favourite" and "Poor Things".

A dark comedy containing three separate stories, it requires each actor to play three discrete characters.

Asked whether she views herself as an activist when picking her roles, Stone replied: "I am a feminist. Whether that's activism or not, that just is what makes sense to me."

"I don't know I'm really the type of actor that's like, 'I need to do this film because it has this particular message,'" she added.

I just find the characters interesting, the worlds interesting, and it's something that I want to explore." While Lanthimos and Stone's two previous efforts together enjoyed mainstream commercial as well as critical success, "Kinds of Kindness" marks a return for the director to his more surreal and experimental early work. **—AFP**

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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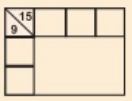
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

357 246
785 674
987 ???

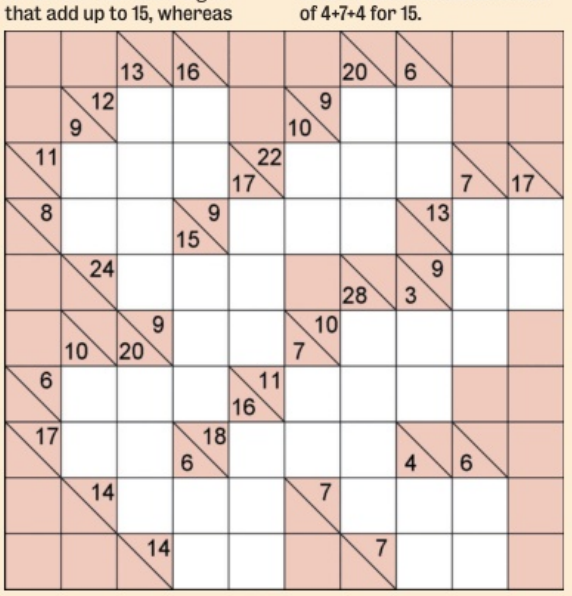
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

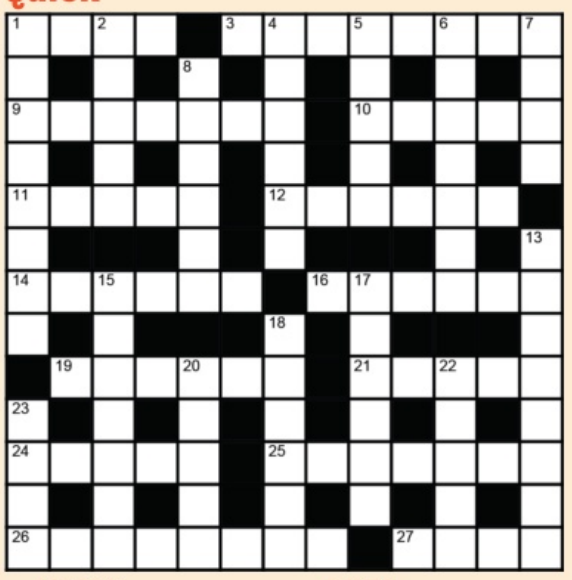


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Thermal energy (4)
3 Edinburgh is its capital (8)
9 Patrolled (7)
10 Intends to (5)
11 Ice house (5)
12 Not native (6)
14 Batting legend ___ Tendulkar (6)
16 A French cake (6)
19 Papal representative (6)
21 City in North Karnataka (5)
24 Form of optical glass (5)
25 Small armed ship (7)
26 Massacre of a race (8)
27 Ancient church desk (4)

DOWN

1 Most joyous or glad (8)
2 Sulphide in oil of garlic (5)
4 Scrounges or sponges? (6)
5 Pace (5)
6 Extreme greed (7)
7 Sunset? (4)
8 Marine creatures (6)
13 Bisect or halve (3,2,3)
15 Warn (7)
17 Hurting (6)
18 Made a systematic recording of events, etc (6)
20 Funny (5)
22 Cleaning instrument (5)
23 Slangy sort of cord-like pasta, in short (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS I

XC'R OFHC KNG VBHDY HWCBD KNG SYNO XC HVV CFHC ANGYCR.

Linemaro

Your smile just lit up this room

Mindchow

If you let go of the past, it no longer has a hold on you

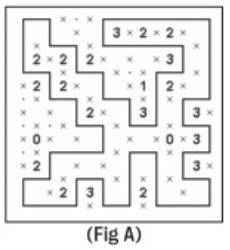
Joke of the day

My mom took me to a dog show and I won!

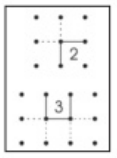
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

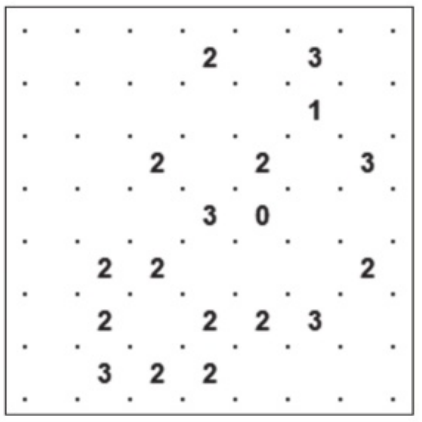


(Fig B) Not Allowed

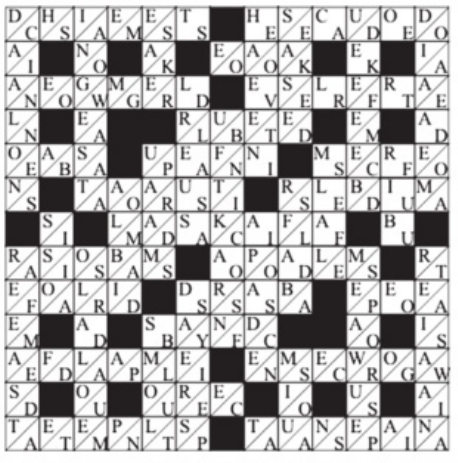
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



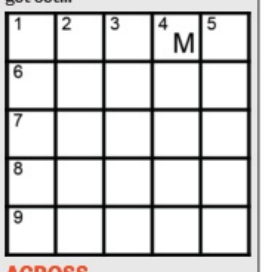
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Lump C; 6 R rear;
7 Tune I; 8 Arms a;
9 Eblis

DOWN

1 Mr Cub; 2 Liana;
3 Ural I; 4 Retem;
5 Spers

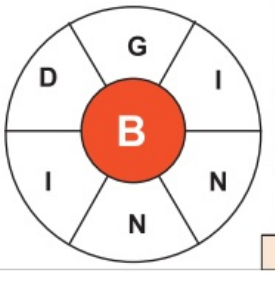
Mensapuzzle

In the two numerical sequences below, one number that appears in the top sequence should appear in the bottom sequence and vice versa. Which two numbers should be changed round?

13, 20, 34, 60, 83

12, 20, 36, 55, 92

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5								3
	1	7	9		3	8	6	
			4		8			
	7		5		4		3	
6		8				5		1
	4		6		1		7	
			8		5			
	9	4	1		7	3	2	
2								6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

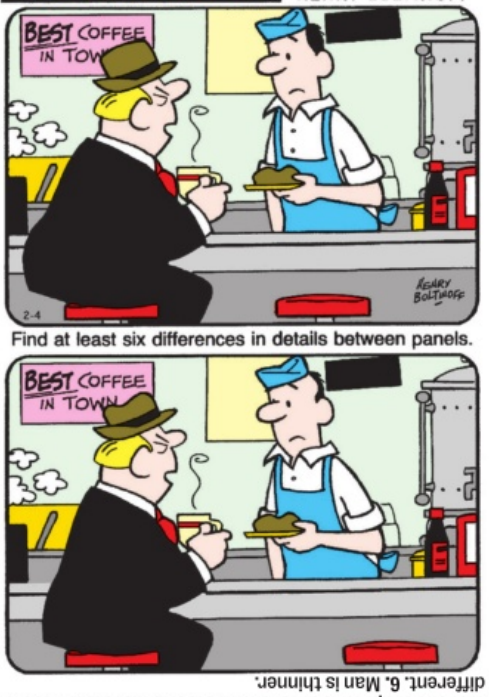
Easy = 12
4 5 5 8

Medium = 1
2 3 5 5

Hard = 32
1 7 9 2

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

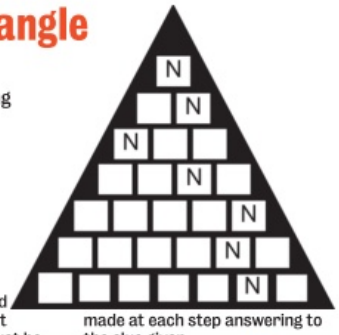
Differences: 1. Server has less hair. 2. Hat is different. 3. Front of apron is different. 4. Stool is moved. 5. Nose is different. 6. Man is thinner.

Riddler

Starting with A, add a letter and shuffle to make a new word each time until you reach PENDANT.

Alpha triangle

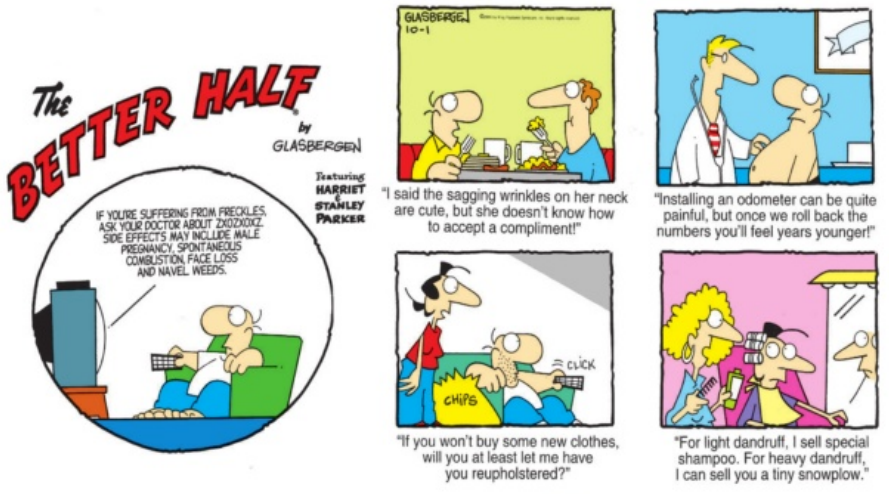
1 One of the poles
2 A's alternative
3 Bother by scolding
4 Telephoned
5 Silo contents
6 Worrying about
7 Sculpture



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
IF YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM FRECKLES, ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZXOZXOXZ. SIDE EFFECTS MAY INCLUDE MALE PREGNANCY, SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION, FACE LOSS AND NAVEL WEEDS.
GLASBERGEN 10-1
"I said the sagging wrinkles on her neck are cute, but she doesn't know how to accept a compliment!"
"Installing an odometer can be quite painful, but once we roll back the numbers you'll feel years younger!"
CLICK
CHIPS
"If you won't buy some new clothes, will you at least let me have you reupholstered?"
"For light dandruff, I sell special shampoo. For heavy dandruff, I can sell you a tiny snowplow."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
NOW, DASHER! NOW, DANCER! NOW, PRANCER AND VIXEN! ON, COMET! ON, CUPID! ON, DONNER AND BLITZEN!
JUMP, MICHAEL! ZAP, BRENDA! CHARGE, WALTER AND DIXON! SPARK, LEO! ARC, ALBERT! FLOW, BERTHA AND DWIXON!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...
THAT'S TOO MANY REINDEER, DAD.
THEY'RE NOT REINDEER.
SANTA'S NEW SLEIGH IS A HYBRID. THOSE ARE THE NAMES OF THE BATTERIES!
DAD JOKE.
I'M GOING TO BED.
YAWN!
AND IT'S ONLY EIGHT-THIRTY.
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE A GENIUS.

RACKED WITH PAIN, VULTAN MOMENTARILY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.
THIS IS THUN CALLING ALANIA. DO YOU READ ME?
WHAT THE..?
GUARDS, PRINCE THUN HAS ESCAPED FROM THE ATOM FURNACES!
ATOM FURNACES? THAT WAS YEARS AGO!
GUARDS...!
THAT'S IT...REST, OLD FRIEND. HELP SHOULD BE ON THE WAY SOON.
I ONLY HOPE FLASH IS FARING BETTER THAN WE ARE - AND THAT HE'S STOPPED MING ONCE AND FOR ALL!
FLASH GORDON
6-12
By JIM KEEFE
ALL THE MISERY YOU'VE CAUSED... I SHOULD RUN YOU THROUGH RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
BUT YOU WON'T...
AND THAT'S ALL THE ADVANTAGE I NEED!
CLICK!
NOOOOOOO!
TO BE CONTINUED!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may have a dull feeling, which may affect your health. You may not get results from your professional meetings. You may have a feeling of a waste of time. From late evening, disappointments may convert into happiness. You are advised to avoid rushed driving or adventure tours.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day. In business, you may get new clients, which will be helpful in the growth in terms of profits. Singles are likely to find a good match. In domestic life, you must avoid hiding anything from your spouse otherwise it will create some gap in your relationship. Job seekers may be likely to get a new job; there are chances of promotions in the current job too.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life, there may be good understanding between you and your spouse. Professionals related to metal and booking agents will do better.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel more religious so you may plan to visit some religious place to find peace of mind. You may donate some amount to charity or to a spiritual place. People around you may get help and support from you, in terms of finance or moral support. You may enjoy every moment with satisfaction and patience.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You are advised to control your temper. Your focus is tested many times, and you should try to avoid your focus being diverted from your goals. It is advised that you don't invest in worthless things. Love birds are advised to avoid getting into arguments over frivolous topics.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be happy and may have mental peace. You are likely to be busy with friends and family. You may enjoy your domestic life, bonding with the spouse is likely to be better, which may maintain domestic harmony. There may be a new partnership in your business. New innovations may help your business to grow.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may begin your day with positive thinking. You may be in a winning position as compared to your opponents and hidden enemies. Your work may be praised by your seniors and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Students are blessed by the moon, which may show them the right path to choose good career options.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may explore your extra sources of income in terms of gains. You might take interest in artefacts, movies, glamour, which may improve your creativity. Love birds have a clear view in terms of their relationships. Students may now go ahead towards their aim in terms of career.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may have many options, which may make you confused. You may decide to visit your elders to consult with them, before taking any important decision. Your past karma may show you the right path to take the right decision in terms of work and domestic life. Today you should be careful about your parents' health.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your business plans are likely to be successful with support of your subordinates. You may have to go on a short trip in terms of business, which will give you benefits in the near future. You may be involved in some social and family get together, which may increase your social network.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a good day for gains. You may make good plans to get good gains from your investments. You are likely to save money by avoiding spending on unnecessary items, which may boost your savings. Love birds may be busy with family functions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy with issues related to siblings and relatives. But you may expect some support at work, which may help your work to run smoothly. Your network may help you to complete your task successfully. You may plan to start some new venture with the support of well-wishers.

KIDZONE

Shezan Knah, 9 Years, Diana English School

Anirudh Ramachandran, 8 Years, Jain Heritage School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
The difference between the numbers is 111 hence 987 - 111= 876

BULL'S EYE
bidding, blind, BINDING

STRIKE OUT

C	H	I	M	E	S		H	E	A	D	E	D		
A		N		K		O		A		K		E		I
N	O	G	G	E	D		V	E	L	E	T	A		
N		E		R	U	E	D		M		D			
O	B	S		P	E	N	N		S	E	R	E		
N		T	A	R	S	I		S	E	D	U	M		
I		L	A	S	C	A	L	A		B				
A	S	S	A	M		O	P	A	L	S		T		
F	O	L	D		D	R	A	B		P	E	A		
E		A		S	Y	N	C		A		I			
A	F	L	A	M	E		E	S	C	R	O	W		
S		O		U	R	E		O		S		A		
T	E	M	P	T	S		T	U	N	E	I	N		

FAST FIVE

C	L	U	M	P
R	A	R	E	R
U	N	I	T	E
M	A	A	R	S
B	I	L	E	S

RIDDLER
One solution is: A, AT, PAT, PATE, ADEPT, PANTED, PENDANT

QUICK

H	E	A	T		S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D		
A		L		O		A		E		V		U		
P	O	L	I	C	E	D		M	E	A	N	S		
P		Y		T		G		P		R		K		
I	G	L	O	O		E	X	O	T	I	C			
E		P		S			C				C			
S	A	C	H	I	N		G	A	T	E	A	U		
T		A		L			C				T			
N	U	N	C	I	O		H	U	B	L	I			
S		T	O		G		I		R		N			
P	R	I	S	M		G	U	N	B	O	A	T		
A		M		E		S		C		O		W		
G	E	N	O	C	I	D	E		A	M	B	O		

MENSA PUZZLE
60 and 55 should be interchanged. The top sequence progresses +7, +14, +21, +28. The bottom sequence progresses +8, +16, +24, +32.

QUOTE UNCODE
It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.

SUDOKU

5	8	9	2	7	6	4	1	3
4	1	7	9	5	3	8	6	2
3	2	6	4	1	8	9	5	7
1	7	2	5	8	4	6	3	9
6	3	8	7	9	2	5	4	1
9	4	5	6	3	1	2	7	8
7	6	3	8	2	5	1	9	4
8	9	4	1	6	7	3	2	5
2	5	1	3	4	9	7	8	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Nag, Rang, Grain, Carling, Carving.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 - 5 + 8 = 12
Medium
5 - 5 - 2 + 3 = 1
Hard
9 + 7 x 2 x 1 = 32

LOOP

KAKURO

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